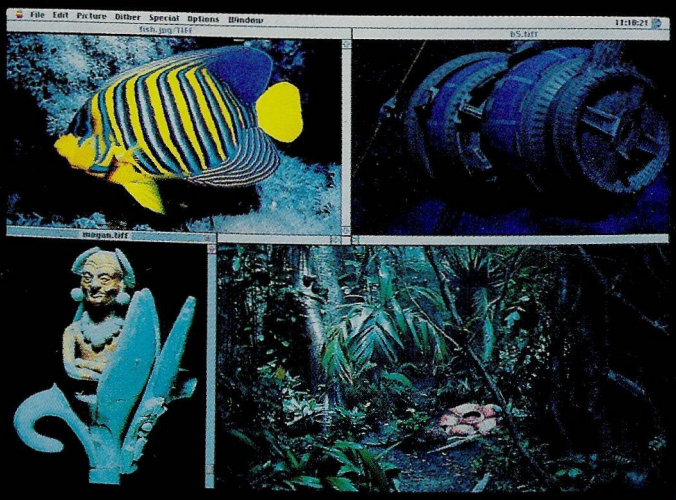
Downloading Made Easy ▪ Dow Jones´ Flat Fee Plan

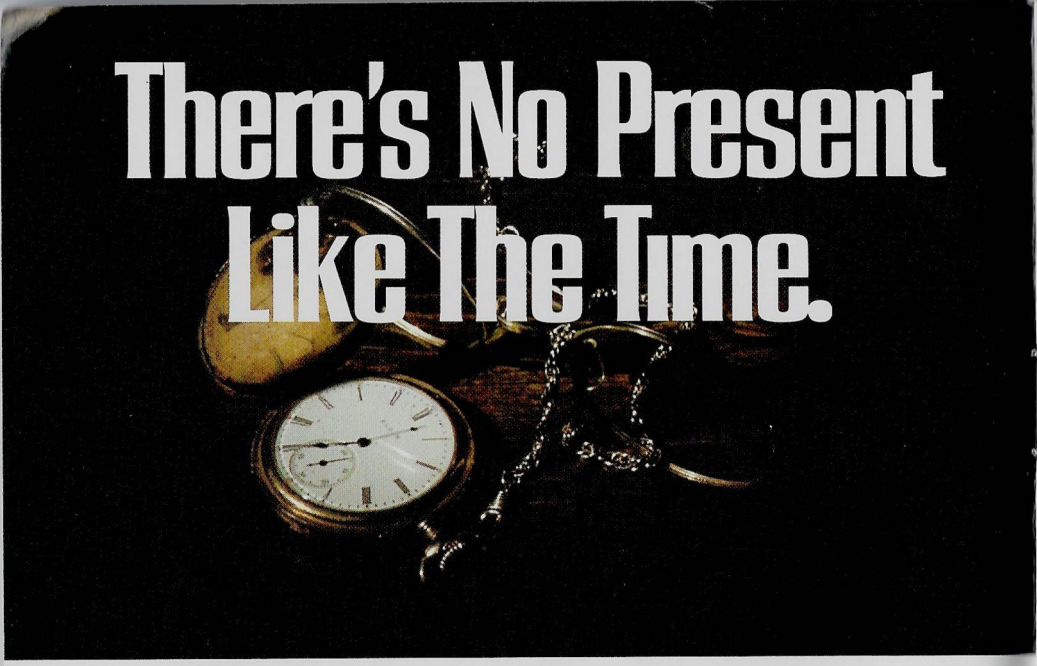
GEnie® LIVEWIRE

▪ JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1993 ▪

Glorious Graphics



There's No Present Like The Time.



Give the gift of time.

Now you can introduce a friend to GEnie and look like a bigshot – without spending big bucks.

For just $25.00, the new subscriber will receive:

- $4.95 subscription fee will be waived for the first month.
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GEnie®

Offer expires 1/31/93.

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GEnie® LIVEWIRE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1993

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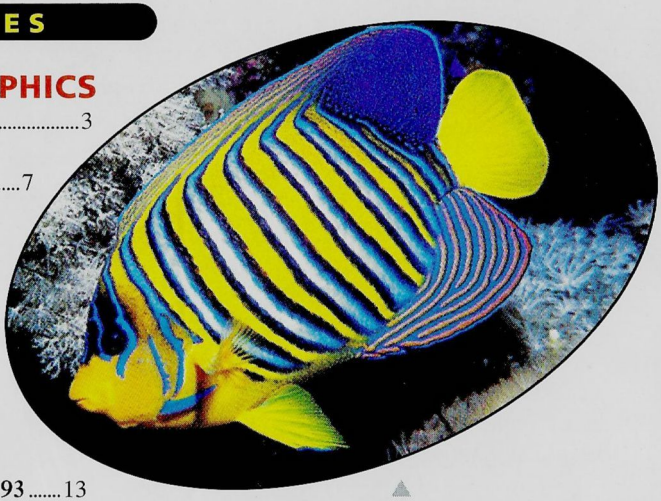

Download this dazzling photo of a tropical fish in JPEG format from the PHOTObase Library. File #2871 FISH.JPG.

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FROM GRAPHICS TO GAMES—ALL ON GENIE

As you can clearly see from the gorgeous graphics throughout these pages, we've come a long way from the early ASCII "art" programmers used to type into mainframes. Learn how you can download GIF and JPEG files in this issue and grab some of these digital beauties to use in your own computing projects.

For some real excitement, try a multi-player game. GEnie is the undisputed King of the Mountain when it comes to interactive fun. Whether you prefer graphics and sound enhancements or imaginative text-based adventure, you're in for a real treat—and some surprises about how real it can seem—if you've never experienced the joy of gaming with real people as companions and opponents.

If you're new to GEnie, don't miss the GEnieUS RoundTable Bulletin Board for GEnie*Basic tips on maximizing the value of time you spend online.

And remember that back issues of LiveWire with completely new articles are available free from LiveWire Online, our electronic edition. Reach it by typing *LIVEWIRE from any numbered GEnie page prompt.

See ya online!

Peggy

Peggy Herrington
Editor

GEnie®

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Joining GEnie is easy:
1. Set your communication software to half duplex (local echo) at 300/1200/2400 baud.
2. Dial toll-free 1-800-638-8369 (in Canada dial 1-800-387-8330). Upon CONNECTion, enter HHH.
3. At the U#= prompt type SIGNUP and press RETURN.
4. Have a major credit card accuont number ready. In the U.S. you may also user your checking account.

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Sure, the computer on your desk works great with words, and can't be beaten for figures. But this is the video age. Can your computer do something with graphic images—in other words, with pictures?

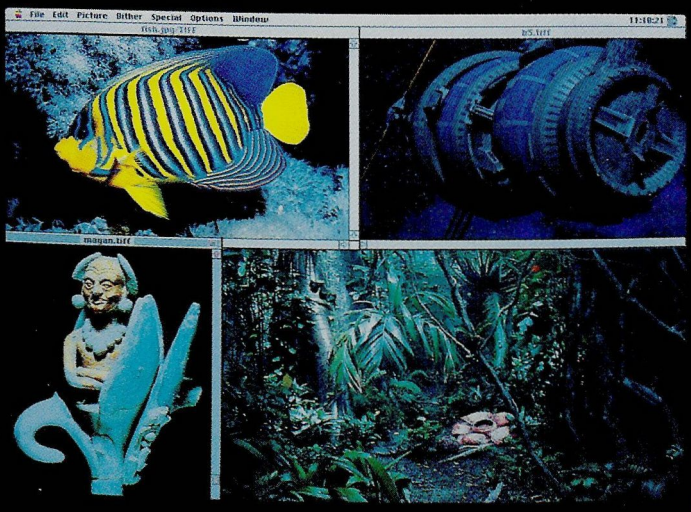
Getting Started

Have no fear, GEnie provides pictures of various types to treat your eyeballs.

Almost every RoundTable Library on GEnie contains some kind of graphics files. Enter any one of them and start by searching on the term GIF.

GIF (which stands for Graphics Interchange Format) is a standardized method of handling computer graphics, making it possible to store images created with dozens of different paint programs on almost any computer platform.

GIF images are compressed, requiring less disk space and time to transfer electronically. GIF viewers (available for most systems) automatically decompress images as you view them.



Glorious Graphics

BY DONN KING

GraphicMoves

© 1992 WARNER BROS.

Scene from *Babylon 5*, created, written, and co-exec produced by GEnie member J. Michael Straczynski. Airs February. Reprinted by permission. SFRT file #4238 VORLON.GIF.

GIFts of Friends

You'll find all kinds of things in GIF files, including photos of some of your GEnie friends. You'll also find photos dealing with the particular focus of the RoundTable. For instance, if you frequent the Motorcycling RoundTable you can download file #419 JWING1.GIF and see sysop Joanna Strohn with her 1993 Honda GoldWing.

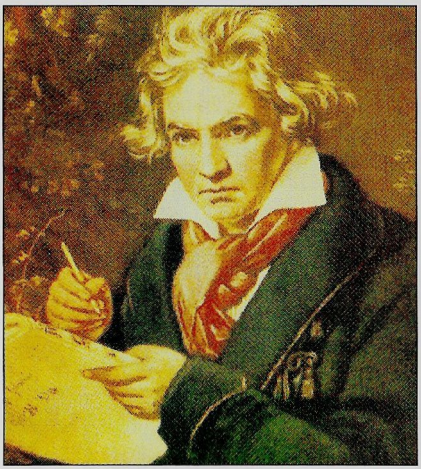
If you're mostly interested in pretty pictures, GEnie has some great picture mines to excavate. For instance, the Deutschland RoundTable Library has wonderful European pics like those shown with this article. And the Florida RoundTable Library specializes in things related to Disney World.

Music for the Eyes

Look too in the computer RoundTable devoted to your platform. If, for example, you have a Macintosh, you'll find hundreds of pictures in graphic formats especially for your computer such as #22911 in the Macintosh RoundTable Software Library, a dazzling artist's image of a binary star.

Next turn to the RoundTable that specializes in photographic images, the Photobase RoundTable Library. Their splendid GIF collection continues to expand, including images from both amateur and professional photographers such as the spectacular file #3975 CROWN.GIF, shown right.

Photobase accommodates a burgeoning collection of GIFs from the Smithsonian Institute Photographic Collection. These include photos of news events such as #3387 STORM1.GIF, a photo of Desert Storm, and of national landmarks, such as #3714 UNKWN1.GIF, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at dawn. The National Zoo also pro-

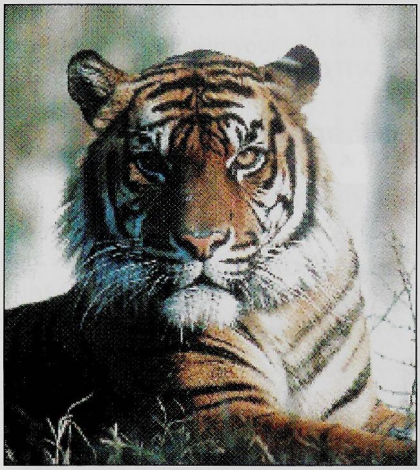


File #634 BEETHOVE.GIF, from the Germany Library, depicts the great composer as a youth.

vides pictures in such resplendent colors; you'll think the tiger in #3514 ZOO02.GIF is looking at *you,* rather than vice versa.

Smithsonian Institute files include samples containing 15 tiny images on one screen for previewing (as illustrated in File #3821 SIG023.GIF) from which you may choose those you wish to download in their full size and glory.

As a service to GEnie members, the Photobase RoundTable also



Sumatran Tiger from the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, file #3514 ZOO02.GIF in PHOTO Library. Smithsonian photo by Jessie Cohen.

scans photographs sent to them by regular mail and places them in their Library as GIFs for downloading. If you don't own or have access to a color scanner, this is an efficient and inexpensive way of obtaining computer-readable images. Find out more in the Photobase RoundTable, keyword PHOTO.

Napoleon gave this crown of 950 diamonds and 79 emeralds to Empress Marie Louise. Photobase file #3975 CROWN.GIF. Smithsonian photo by Dane A. Penland.

Picture the Uses

If you want to do more with GIFs than just look at them, you can use them in your applications. Many paint and/or desktop publishing programs import them directly. If you need to resize them first (to make them small enough for a small desktop publishing program to handle), or convert them to black and white, check your particular computer RoundTable for a conversion program.

For instance, Graphics Workshop 6.1p from the IBM PC Library (#29084 GRFWK61P.ZIP) will handle most popular graphic formats. It converts between any two formats (with a few restrictions), prints to any LaserJet Plus compatible or PostScript laser and many dot matrix printers, dithers color images to black and white, scales, sharpens, softens and otherwise wreaks special effects on them. In addition, using the halftoning and dithering facilities of Graphic Workshop, you

This ceramic Mayan whistle made in Mexico between 550-900 A.D. depicts an earth god emerging from a cornstalk. From Smithsonian Seeds of Change Exhibit, Photobase Library file #3789 MAYAN.GIF.

can convert full-color digitized photographs for use as superb black and white clip art, suitable for inclusion in printed documents.

Moving Images

Finally, if you'd like a little movement on your screen, or if unimaginative screen blankers seem inappropriate for your high-tech brain, check out the various programs designed to dance in front of your eyes. Dazzle, in the IBM PC RoundTable Library (#29375 DAZZLE50.ZIP), is a performing art realization on a computer platform, according to its documentation. In its slower-cycling VGA modes (where it REALLY shines), Dazzle is often soothing and meditative. It fills your monitor with continually-evolving displays that protect the screen from image burn. In reception areas, at trade shows, in display windows, and other spots where you want to attract attention, use a faster cycling mode.

Dazzle also constructs geometric images that can complement desktop publishing materials, 35mm slide and overhead design, or form background animations for video production.

Computer graphics can enhance your applications and raise your Computer Enjoyment Quotient

Computer graphics can enhance your applications and raise your CEQ (Computer Enjoyment Quotient). Turn to the Computing RoundTable section in this issue for information on getting started.

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IBM PC RT	IBMPC	615
Florida RT	FLORIDA	195
Macintosh RT	MAC	605
Motorcycling RT	MOTO	1155
Photo & Video RT	PHOTO	660
Science Fiction	SFRT	470
Germany RT	GERMANY	725

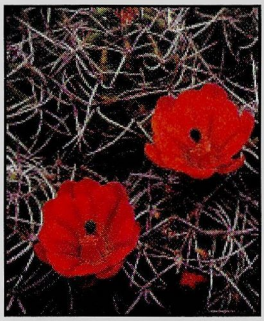
JPEG Gallery

BY PEGGY HERRINGTON

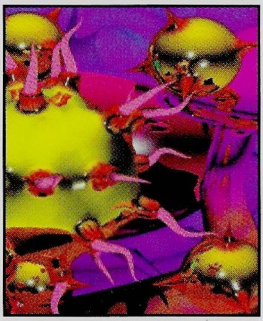
GIF ACCOMODATES 8-BIT, 256 color images, but JPEG files—like those shown here—can contain dazzling 24-bit graphics in 16 million possible hues. Even if your system doesn't do 24-bit graphics, a JPEG viewer is available in your computing RoundTable.

The advantages of GIF and JPEG are cross-platform compatibility accompanied by a massive reduction in file size. For example, NASA's LAUNCH32.JPG is only 77K bytes in size, but was converted from a Macintosh image of over 326K bytes! Smaller files mean quick downloads and optimize disk space as well.

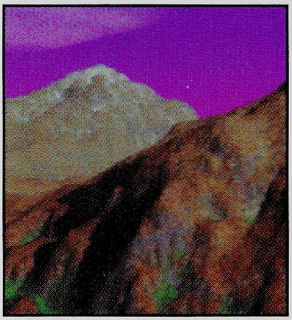
▲ MONETLUN.JPG, file #4211 in PHOTO.



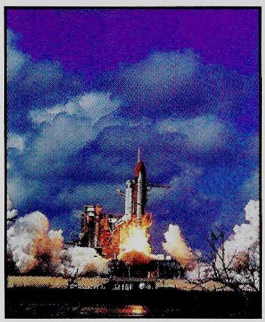
▲ CACTUS3.JPG, file #3277 in PHOTO.



▲ DANDELION.JPG, file #16755 in AMIGA.

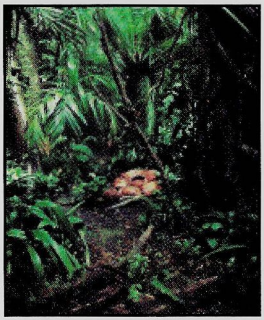


▲ TWO_MOUNTAINS.JPG, file #15871 in AMIGA.



NASA PHOTO

▲ LAUNCH32.JPG, file #4008 in PHOTO.



▲ RAINFST2.JPG, file #3414 in PHOTO.

BY DONN KING

ART Appreciation

IT JUST KEEPS ON GROWING

ADVANCED RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES (ART) continues to expand to the benefit of GEnie members. Now, GEnie has released the latest wave of information products. The new ART databases offer summaries and references, and in many cases, provide downloadable full-text articles, as well.

Most of the new ART products provide a Training Area where you can try your hand at searching for titles without being charged full rates. Training Areas are smaller versions of real services, so don't be discouraged if you don't find exactly what you're looking for.

D&B Business Locator

If you know the name of the company or professional you're searching for, the D&B Business Locator will do the rest. By entering a company's name, you can get the addresses of all its locations, with telephone numbers, Standard Industrial Classification codes, descriptions, and number of employees. The system lists more than 8.7 million companies.

Closely related in form and function are D&B Canadian Company Profiles (300,000 listings), D&B Company Profiles (worldwide, except U.S. and Canada, with almost 3 million listings), and D&B European Company Profiles (more than 1.9 million listings).

Research the latest scanning technology in ART's Computer Center. (File #2679 FLOWERS.JPG., Photobase.)

Commerce Business Daily: CBD

Use CBD to quickly find the latest announcements for product and service procurements from the U.S. Government. Announcements are posted to this service in advance of the printed publication, ensuring that users get first crack at these opportunities. You can search for requests for specific products and services or browse key sections. Searches can be focused to specific agencies and locations.

Computer & Electronics Center

Computer & Electronics Center contains full text and summary information from the leading computer/electronics databases including Computer ASAP, Computer Database, Compendex, Inspec, Microcomputer Software Guide, Byte Magazine, NTIS, and more.

Medicine Centers

With Consumer Medicine you can quickly locate information in the world's largest collection of medical research. More than 3 million articles have been summarized here on all aspects of human medicine. Enter your topic, whether it is a specific ailment, drug, or medical procedure, to see the latest medical research information. The first step searches through more than 3 million records to find each record which matches your criteria.

In the Medical Professional Center you will find information on medical, cancer, and AIDS research, nursing and allied health, hospital administration, and more.

Educator Center provides information on education research, child abuse and neglect, psychology, exceptional child education, A/V materials online, and more.

ART Database	Page
Commerce Business Daily	1284
Computer & Electronics Center	1282
Consumer Medicine	1258
D&B U.S. Business Locator	1274
D&B Canadian	1276
D&B European	1280
D&B International	1278
Educator Center	1286
Medical Professional Center	1270

Net Yourself a Job!

BY DONN KING

The boss nags you just once too often. "I'll show her," you say. "This isn't the only game in town."

But a quick breeze through the local want ads indicates that, yes, it *is* the only game in town. What's your answer?

Perhaps you should "get out of town" with the help of a nationwide database of employment listings newly available to GEnie members.

Working at Job-Hunting

Adnet Online is an employment advertising network which allows organizations to reach PC-literate professional, technical and managerial candidates nationwide. This database of job listings and opportunities is updated weekly.

Even if you're not presently seeking to change jobs, Adnet helps you keep abreast of the job market. Though it provides a valuable source of information (many of the employment listings that appear on Adnet Online are unavailable in other media), you only pay regular GEnie Value rates to view it.

Find Your Job Finder

Type ADNET or M304 at any numbered GEnie page prompt. To start, select "SEARCH the Job Listings." A series of menus will guide your search through the database. To view the listings under any menu item, enter the number of that item.

INCREDIBLE VALUE FROM DOW JONES NEWS/RETRIEVAL

The Flat Fee Plan

PRIVATE INVESTORS... STOP WATCHING the clock!

Now you can use Dow Jones News/Retrieval without paying connect-time or Information-Unit charges. Just pay one monthly flat fee as low as $25. Then log onto Dow Jones News/Retrieval as often as you want from 8:01 PM to 6:00 AM (Eastern time plus weekends and major holidays) and you have unlimited access to the databases offered in the Tier(s) you choose.

You may subscribe to **Tier 1 News & Quotes**, **Tier 2 Forecasts & Analyses**, or both Tiers 1 and 2.

Tier 1 NEWS & QUOTES
gives you access to the following databases:

//DJNEWS (Dow Jones News)
//CQ (Current Quotes)
//CQE (Enhanced Current Quotes)
//HQ (Current & Historical Quotes)
//DJA (Dow Jones Averages)
//FUTURES (Commodities and index quotes)
//SYMBOL (Symbols directory)

Tier 2 FORECASTS & ANALYSES
gives you access to the following databases:

//INNOVEST (Innovest Technical Analyses Reports)
//FUNDS (Mutual Funds Performance Report)
//WSW (Wall Street Week Online)
//WATCH (Corporate Ownership Watch)
//MG (Medial General Financial Services)
//EPS (Zacks Corporate Earnings Estimator)
//SP (Standard & Poor's Online)
//RELEASE (Press Release Wires (Business Wire & PR Newswire))
//BUSINESS (Business & Finance Report)
//SYMBOL (News/Retrieval Symbols Directory)

The monthly subscription fees for the tiers are: $25.00 ($32 Canadian) for Tiers 1 or 2, or $45.00 ($60.00 Canadian) for both tiers.

If you are currently a Dow Jones user, you only need to complete one step to subscribe to the After Hours/Flat-Fee Plan:

1. SELECT OPTION #3 ON PAGE 264–Subscribe/cancel Flat-Fee Plan.

If you are not a Dow Jones user you must complete two steps in order to subscribe to the Dow Jones News/Retrieval After Hours/Flat-Fee Plan:

1. SELECT OPTION #3 ON PAGE 260–Initialize News/Retrieval Access.
2. SELECT OPTION #3 ON PAGE 264–Subscribe/cancel Flat-Fee Plan.

The After Hours/Flat-Fee Plan becomes active on the first day of the month following your selection of Option 3–Subscribe/Cancel Flat-Fee Plan–on Page 264. Your request must be received by the 25th of the current month in order to be enrolled in the After Hours/Flat-Fee Plan for the following month.

NOTE: You are charged standard rates (prime time or non-prime time) when using Dow Jones News/Retrieval at times not specified by the plan and when using any database not included in the plan. For a complete overview of News/Retrieval rates and terms and conditions, see //GUIDE, Dow Jones' FREE online user's guide.

User-Friendly Softwear.

Navy polo, $22.95

Polo shirt, $29.95

Sweatshirt, $29.95

Jacket, $49.95

T-Shirt, $14.95.
Decal, $2.75 (not shown)

Ceramic pin, $
Coffee mug, $11.95.
Key Chain, $4.95

Genuine GEnie garb lets you show the world your GEnie pride. Our softwear makes a great gift, too! Best of all, shopping is a cinch. Just type "GENIESTORE" at any menu prompt.

(Only U.S. prices listed)

BY PEGGY HERRINGTON

DISCOVER JAPAN'S LARGEST INFO SERVICE

Free PC-VAN Access!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE ORIENT and speak some Japanese, you'll be excited to learn that PC-VAN, Japan's number one online service, is available through GEnie free of GEnie$Professional fees from now through May 31, 1993.

The $39.95 sign-up fee for PC-VAN as well as GEnie$Professional fees for most services (normally ranging from $30 to $36 an hour) are waived during this time to give you a taste of the variety of things PC-VAN provides. Regular GEnie access fees and any surcharges for calling from an outlying area or through Sprint Net still apply.

From Soup to Cookies

PC-VAN's services include electronic mail, bulletin boards, live chatting, and over 140 special interest groups devoted to a multitude of topics from animation to science. News from Asahi and Mainichi newspapers, sports coverage from Nomura and financial news from Yamaichi Securities Ltd. are available, as are weather forecasts and information on business, travel, sightseeing and, of course, personal computers.

You can shop online for such delicacies as Japanese tea, sake and fresh fish. PC-VAN also publishes a magazine.

Most, but not all of PC-VAN's services are encompassed by this special offer. Among those not available are C&C-VAN Database, Nichigai ASSIST and DIALINE-PC Version.

Kanji Software

Also not included in this free offer are English translation services, so you'll want to access PC-VAN using special Kanji software. Kanji, a Japanese writing system, is available built into communications and text editing programs from the Japan RoundTable Library on GEnie page 225 (keyword JAPAN). The sysops there will be happy to provide any technical assistance you may need to use them. Simply leave a message on the Bulletin Board in Category 1.

Half a World Away

Whether you'd like to plan a vacation, investigate business opportunities, or keep in touch with family and friends, PC-VAN offers instant access to all things Japanese. It's your gateway to the orient through GEnie.

This exciting special offer is being extended to both new and current PC-VAN subscribers in the United States, Canada, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The promotion will run through May 31, 1993. For details, type PC-VAN or M315 at any numbered GEnie page prompt.

BY MARGARET MORABITO
DIRECTOR of CALC

CALC Winter Term 92-93

CALC'S ONLINE CAMPUS ON GENIE IS the premiere continuing education center for the entire family. Instructors are professional educators and the courses are the same as you'll find in your local community college.

We're all watching our budgets, and many of you have told us that CALC's Self-Study courses are a great buy. Attendance is optional, and weekly lessons are provided by the teacher for you to download and study offline. This flexibility is one of the most appealing features of CALC, and students come back for more every semester.

Why don't you join us? Registration for the Winter Term is open through January 15. If you miss that session, Spring Term Registration is open from March 1 until April 23 with those courses starting on April 24. Annual family membership in CALC is just $35. Course fees run from $25 to $50.

Here are CALC's non-credit courses offered this winter. You'll need the Course Title and Section Number to register on GEnie page 179. For descriptions, teachers, time slots and costs, see the complete course catalog online on page 174. Type CALC to get there.

COURSE TITLE	NUMBER
Stock Market Technical Analysis	BU350
Intro. to Financial Planning	BU303
Economics	BU304
Small Business Management II	BU314
Principles of Real Estate	BU302
Business Communication	BU212
Business Law	BU210
Business Ethics	BU203
Accounting I	BU320
Intermediate Accounting	BU321
Managerial Accounting	BU322
Income Tax Preparation	BU200
BASIC Programming	ICSE310
Advanced BASIC	CSE311
C Programming I	CSE401
C Programming II	CSE402
Software Design & Development	CSE410
COBOL Programming	CSE300
dBASE IV Workshop	CSE102
LOTUS 1-2-3 Workshop	CSE105
PC Communications I	CSE103
PC Communications II	CSE104
GED (High School Equiv.) Prep	GED100
Interactive Bible Study	GST300
Intro. to Astronomy	SH301
Intro. to Earth Science	SH302
Chemistry I	SH210
Chemistry II	SH211
Survey of Pre-Calculus	MTH250
Beginning Calculus	MTH313
Algebra I	MTH310
Sci.Fi. & Fantasy Workshop	EN105
Express Yourself	EN106
Fundamental Tools of Fiction	EN314
Reading American Drama	EN260
Reading The Short Story	EN250
New Testament As Literature	EN240
Business & Technical Writing	EN312
Electronic Media	CMM200

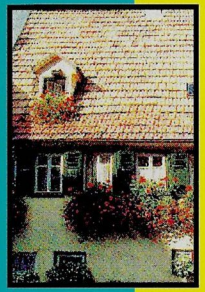
GEnie
Special Events

- Enter the keyword (shown in boldfaced capital letters, for example, **SFRT**) at any numbered GEnie page prompt to reach the RoundTable hosting these Special Events. Topics are subject to change without notice.
- Chat Lines hosts a delightful variety of multi-player Games and fascinating Theme Chats on weekends, weekday evenings and during the wee hours, plus Breakfast Chats at 6AM Eastern time. Complete schedule on GEnie Page 400.

JANUARY through FEBRUARY

Eastern Time	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00PM	**SFRT** **BORLAND** **SCORPIA** Sierra Hints	**MAC** Help: Chat Ch3 8-10PM **PK** Poker Night	**MAC** Help: Chat Ch3 8-10PM	**MAC** Help: Chat Ch3 8-10PM	**MAC** Help: Chat Ch3 8-10PM	**MAC** Help: Chat Ch3 8-10PM **AMIGA**:News 6PM-3AM	
8:30PM	**GEOWORKS**		**ENABLE**				
9:00PM	**RADIO** Listening **PF**:Current Events **SPACE** **MAC** Fights **AMIGA** HelpDesk **FAMILY** **ST** HelpDesk	**SHOWBIZ** Live Chat **GENEALOGY** Beginners **ROMANCE** **AMIGA** HelpDesk **GERMANY**	**AMIGA** HelpDesk **FAMILY** Mothers	**MILITARY** General **FAMILY** Teens **AMIGA** HelpDesk	**PCALADDIN** Automate **INVEST** Q&As **WRITERS** **ROMANCE** **AMIGA** HelpDesk 9-11PM	**AMIGA** HelpDesk **SFRT** Queen's Own	**ASTROLOGY** **GENIEUS** GEnieJAM! **AMIGA** Hardware Clinic **SFRT** Star Wars **MAC** Help
9:30PM	**IBMPC** General **A2** II Speak **SFRT** Pern **WRITERS** All Types **AMIGA** News 3PM-3AM	**A2** New Users **AUTO** CaRTC	**IBMPC** Communications **A2** Guest **SFRT** Writers **ERT** Parents & Home School **UNIX** Coffee & Code **DTP** **LAPTOPS**	**IBMPC** OpSystems **A2** Hypermedia **AMIALADDIN** **SCORPIA** Ask Sysops **ERT** Education **MPGRT** Ask Sysops **WRITERS** Non-fiction	**SCORPIA** Open House **A2** TBC Forum **WP** WordPerfect **STALADDIN** **MPGRT** Air Warrior	**A2** Telecom **MPGRT** BattleTech	**AMIGA** News 3PM-3AM **A2** Small Biz **RADIO**

10:00PM	**AMIGA** Graphics **FORTH** **SFRT** SCA **FOOD** CooksChat **MOTOrcycles** **ST** DTP **HOSB** **HOME** **CBM** **MAC** Help 10PM-12AM	**MAC** MacTalk **AMIGA** **DTP** **ST** DTP **SFRT** Star Trek **MPGRT** Dragon's Gate **CBM**	**AMIGA** Music **MAC** HyperCard **CBM** **HOME** Open House **WRITERS** Poetry **MOTOrcycles**	**MAC** Games **AMIGA** AmiGames **ST** Open House **SFRT** On Screen **PRO/AM(iga)** **GEOWORKS** **GERMANY** **HOME** Moose Manor **CBM**	**AMIGA** Video **GERMANY** **AVIATION** **MPGRT** GemStone III **CANADA** **SFRT** Quantum Leap **FOOD** Cooking & Computers **FAMILY** Singles **MAC** Telecom **CBM**	**ASTROLOGY** Beginners **SFRT** General **GENEALOGY** **HOME** Q-Hut **CBM**	**AMIGA** Party **SFRT** CyberSpace **FOOD** Beer Tasting **HOME** Parlor Games **MOTOrcycles** **CBM**
10:30PM		**SFRT** Horror					
11:00PM	**CBM**	**MAC** Help 11PM-1AM	**SCORPIA** Star Fleet **MAC** Help 11PM-1AM	**CBM** **MAC** Help 11PM-1AM	**PHOTO** General **MAC** Help 11PM-1AM	**MUSIC** Night-Owls **MAC** Help 11PM-1AM	**CBM**
Midnight					**ASTROLOGY** Mystic	**LEFTCOAST** TGIF!	



DEUTSCHLAND MEMBERS CELEBRATE WWII HEALING ■ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Join members of the Germany RoundTable in a joyous Real-Time Conference on Sunday, February 21st, starting at 10PM Eastern time, as Leska Wright and other survivors of World War II celebrate life today without blame or anger. Read about this exciting conference in the online edition of *LIVEWIRE.

◀ A multitude of flowers pour from lovely German window boxes. File #603 HEIMAT6L.GIF from the Germany RoundTable Library.

BY ALICE H. AMORE

Downloading Made Easy

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF everything GEnie has to offer? Maybe you've visited several Bulletin Boards, perhaps played some games and attended a Conference, but have you explored GEnie's Software Libraries? They contain thousands of files you can run on your computer, everything from productivity software and demonstration versions of commercial programs, to system utilities and children's games, from informative newsletters to great graphics like those shown in this issue—even animations and sound.

Check out the SFRT Library for file #4239 B5.GIF, a scene from the upcoming TV movie, *Babylon 5*.

Blocks and Protocols

Downloading is simply a matter of moving data from a host computer (in this case, GEnie) to a floppy or hard disk on your system. When the download is complete, the file appears in your directory along with all the other files on that disk. One thing to remember is that although you can download *any* file, you can't *run* any file, so make sure that what you download is intended to be used on your brand of computer.

As you download, data is transferred in spurts called blocks. Throughout this process, the host computer checks with the receiving computer to make sure that all data, or blocks, on both ends match perfectly. There are many methods for checking, and the most important thing to remember is that both the host and the receiving computer must use the same method. If your communications program is using Zmodem, then you must tell GEnie to use Zmodem, too. Otherwise, confusion results. These checking methods are called file transfer protocols.

You need to know what protocols are supported by your communications software. If you don't like the terminal program you're using now, you should consider downloading a better one. GEnie has lots of terminal programs to choose from, including Aladdin for IBM-compatibles, Amiga and Atari ST (a sophisticated, automatic system), along with lots of others in the computing RoundTable Libraries. As you check your terminal program, look for terms like ASCII, Xmodem,

Ymodem, and Zmodem. Read the manual and locate the keys or menus which control downloading and file protocols. Also find out how you tell your terminal program where to store the program on your system.

Just before the actual download takes place, you must tell GEnie which file to send and what protocol to use. That done, GEnie will tell you to prepare your computer for the incoming data. And the download begins!

You can practice downloading FREE OF CONNECT-TIME CHARGES in the GEnie Info Library

Finding Files

Before you can download, of course, you need to find a file you want. Files on GEnie are stored in Libraries by name and number. You must specify either a file's name or number, or you won't be able to download it.

Most RoundTables have Software Libraries, and they all operate in exactly the same way. If you've downloaded successfully from one Library, you won't have any problem downloading from the others.

And here's a bonus: You can practice downloading *free of connect time charges* in the GEnie Info Library! (Type *Library or M1075 to get there.) You can experiment with downloading, uploading, searching, browsing, everything involved with file transfers at no charge whatsoever since it's on GEnie*Basic. While you're there, you can download information about what's going on all over GEnie, including extensive lists of files available in the computing RoundTable Libraries.

The Real Thing

Let's say you would like to download something in the IBM PC Round-Table Library. After moving to the IBM PC RoundTable's Main Menu (type M615) you choose option 3 for the Library. You'll see a menu like the one shown on this page.

No doubt you'll understand many of the menu items without explanation. For now, you need only be concerned with items 4 and 6. Don't worry about the others. You can use

Library Main Menu

1. Description of this Library
2. Directory of Files
3. Search File Directory
4. Browse through Files
5. Upload a New File
6. Download a File
7. Delete a File You Own
8. Set Software Library
9. Save Current Software Library
10. Instructions for Software Exchange
11. Directory of New Files
12. Join/Ignore Library Category

THE GEnie GAMER

BY KEVIN J. McCANN

The Missing Link

EVERY YEAR, PERSONAL COMPUTER games get substantially better. Whether role-playing, simulations, strategy, or arcade games, the graphics and resolution improve, digitized sounds approach new levels of realism, and animation becomes more fluid.

Imagine being a powerful magick user or warrior, battling awesome creatures, planning your strategy, increasing your levels of experience. Just about any role-playing game on the market will let you enjoy this fantasy, solo.

Which brings us to the one aspect that's missing from these often great games: real interaction.

Imagine again being a powerful magick user, only this time you're hunting with a group, a group that is truly alive, with each player being able to follow his or her own instincts and code of ethics. Because each member of your group is actually another person.

That's what GEnie's multi-player games are all about—interaction. Not only do you get the thrill of fighting epic battles or dogfighting your way to glory, you share those experiences with other people.

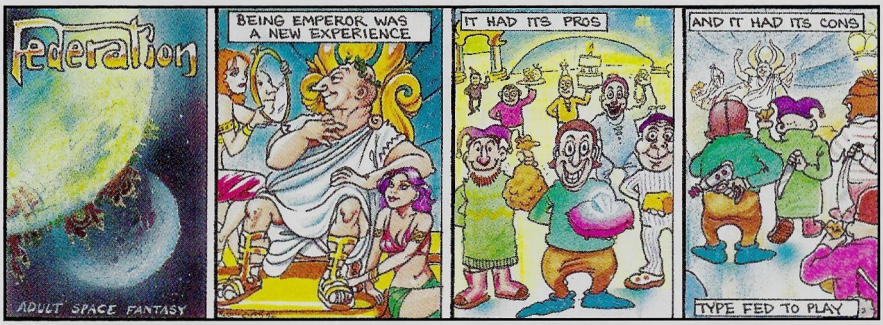
Through GEnie's multi-player games, powerful friendships are formed by people who have never met, who never will meet, because they live thousands of miles apart. They have a common interest in adventure, and they form bonds as strong as any in the real world.

Romantic Fantasy

GemStone III and Dragon's Gate are two of GEnie's premier role-playing adventure games. GemStone III takes place in Kulthea, a Shadow World infested with dangers and rewards. Here you'll find a variety of humanoid races to create your persona, and join the ranks of the many adventurers (both new and experienced) who have to come to discover the wonders of multi-player gaming. GemStone III is the most socially-oriented environment on GEnie, possibly rivaling Chat Lines.

Although no special software is required to play, there is an optional (but highly recommended) front end program for IBM-compatibles. It enhances gameplay by adding eye-catching graphics, animation, and sound. Macros and scrollback provide additive convenience. The program requires an IBM-compatible 286 with VGA graphics, hard drive, and optional sound card.

Dragon's Gate also offers a world of excitement, but lets you play different creatures (if you don't enjoy being human, here's your chance to make a statement), all sporting skills and attributes in a most creative way. Want to be a dragon? No problem, step right up and join the



other varied races of Dragon's Gate.

Hi Tech Fantasy

If you enjoy flying, you'll love Air Warrior®. You can fly a number of different World War II planes and bombers in a war-torn three country environment, with a prescribed heavy dosage of dogfighting. You've got friends, too, who fight and fly right alongside you. Form your own squadron, or join one. Remember, though, just like your allies, the pilots you're fighting aren't controlled by artificial intelligence, but by other people with vastly different flying patterns.

Air Warrior offers front-end programs for various systems (which are necessary in order to play), including SVGA, standard IBM, Macintosh, Amiga, and Atari ST.

If science fiction grabs you, then put yourself at the helm of gigantic armored warring machines in MultiPlayer BattleTech™. There's a lot of territory for the taking, and you and your buddies have the equipment to do so. Here you and your buddies have an arsenal of weaponry at your disposal, preferably for the disposal of your enemies. Communicate with your allies whenever you want, although I'd refrain from talking much when you're involved in a heavy fight.

BattleTech also requires a front end program, the minimum setup being a 12 mHz 286 IBM-compatible with EGA or better graphics, hard drive, and optional sound card. Both BattleTech and Air Warrior front ends are free downloads (excluding SVGA Air Warrior).

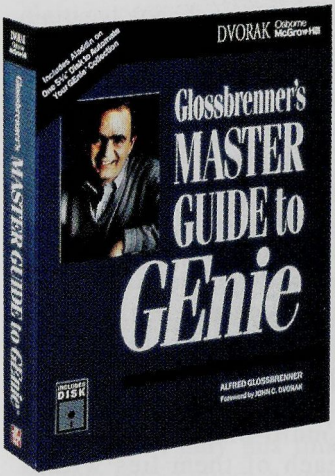
These are but a few of GEnie's popular multi-player games. The key to each of them lies within their interaction, being with and talking to other people, forming bonds. If you're hesitant, realize many veterans are willing to help you out at the start. So give one a shot. It's a brave new world, one that you don't have to brave alone.

Multi-Player Game	Keyword	Page
Air Warrior	AIR	870
BattleTech	BATTLETECH	1135
Dragon's Gate	DGATE	915
Federation II	FED	220
GemStone III	GS3	930
Hundred Years War	HYW	945
Multiplayer Games	MPGRT	1045
RSCARDS	RSCARDS	875

Make the Most of GEnie!

Genie has the power. It can help you work faster and smarter. It can broaden your horizons by putting you in touch with interesting people all over the world. It can save you a great deal of money on everything from downloadable shareware to the goodies at the GEnie Mall. And, thanks to the most exciting and imaginative games available anywhere, you can play as you've never played before.

Now there's a comprehensive guide to make sure you don't miss out on a single GEnie feature or service. Written by best-selling computer author Alfred Glossbrenner, this Osborne McGraw-Hill book gives you everything you need to maximize your GEnie subscription.



- ☐ Slashing costs with GEnie*Basic Services
- ☐ Locating files and downloading programs
- ☐ The ins and outs of GE Mail
- ☐ RoundTable Bulletin Boards made easy
- ☐ Navigation tips and tricks
- ☐ LiveWire Chat Lines!
- ☐ Quick-start guides (Air Warrior, GemStone, etc.)
- ☐ GEnie's Aladdin software (IBM, Atari ST, Amiga)

By special arrangement with GEnie, this book includes a copy of Aladdin on a floppy disk for IBM-compatible computers. If you need a different format or have an Atari ST, Amiga you can exchange this disk free of charge. A coupon good for a $12 GEnie account credit is also included to make it easy to sample GEnie Value and GEnie $Professional Service features.

What the critics have to say about other Glossbrenner books:

"Glossbrenner's knowledge . . . appears to be encyclopedic, and he presents it in enjoyable, lucid prose." *PC World*

"Glossbrenner's admirable feat has been to write a highly readable book that is useful for the beginner [and] valuable as a reference . . . this book belongs on your shelf." *PC Magazine*

Order online and charge to your GEnie account by typing *ORDER at any menu prompt.

To order your copy, please PRINT your address information and make your check payable to Glossbrenner's Choice (U.S. funds on a U.S. bank or U.S. dollar denominated money orders only, please). The cost is $39.95, plus $2 shipping and handling, for a total of $41.95. For shipment outside the U.S., please add $3 extra, for a total of $44.95. Send your order to: Glossbrenner's Choice, 699 River Road, Yardley, PA 19067

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

IBM PC ROUNDTABLE

■ BY ADOLFO SANTIAGO ■

HERE'S A CRASH COURSE ON GRAPHIC files: You need a viewer and as many picture files as you can get your hands on. Short enough?

Of course, the place to get both is the IBMPC RoundTable Library. With over a thousand graphic files and related programs, our Library is one of the best-stocked around.

Get Started with a Viewer

Take viewers. A quick search yielded viewers for all three of the most popular PC environments: DOS, OS/2, and Windows. Particularly useful is file #27269 VUIMG330.ZIP. This DOS-based program pre-loads pictures into extended memory to speed display. For OS/2, try file #29042 VIEWGIF1.ZOO. In addition to displaying files, it captures screens and saves them in GIF. For Windows, file #28153 PSP10.ZIP has image-processing features usually found in expensive products.

The same goes for format conversion programs. You'll find command-line and menu-driven translators in the IBMPC Library. Examples of command-line translators are #29139 GIF2BMP2.ZIP for OS/2, and #19552 GIF2BMP.ZIP for Windows. Both of these programs change GIF files to BMP format, the only file format acceptable to both OS/2 and Windows for use as wallpaper.

GIFs displayed with OS/2-compatible #29042 VIEWGIF1.ZOO.

Bullfighters on My Screen!

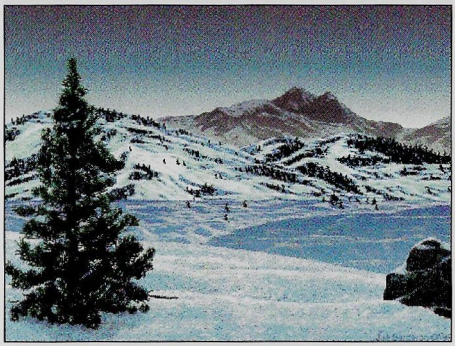
The great majority of files in the IBMPC Library are pictures. Pictures of space, earth scenes, animals, humans, even subjects like Dali's "Toreador" (Bullfighter) painting. My personal favorite is #20136 DESERT1.GIF, which combines a full moon, a city skyline, and a desert—including the mandatory cow skull.

There's a lot more to graphic files than this short crash course. Video cards, drivers, and other technical issues affect how you display a file. Luckily, the IBMPC RoundTable Bulletin Board has several busy topics on this subject. Join the discussions and you are sure to get your questions answered. And when you are ready to venture into the world of pictures, check the IBMPC RoundTable Library for the best of them.

Macintosh ROUNDTABLE

■ BY STEPHEN KAHN ■

KEVIN MITCHELL'S SHAREWARE PROgram GIFCONVERTER has long been one of the most popular Macintosh programs for viewing GIFs and other graphic files. As GEnie member R.MITCHELL commented in the Mac Bulletin Board, "It's an exemplary program with exemplary shareware support."



SNOW SCENE GIF (#21083) by Joe Bergeron.

Kevin has a new version (2.3B12) of this fine program available in open beta test (file #24051) which adds JPEG to its already versatile display of GIF, TIFF, RIFF, RLE, PICT, Startupscreen, Paint, and Thunderscan formats. To find the latest version, search the Library using the keyword GIFCONVERTER.

Graphics Galore

GIFWATCHER (#24721), is a desk accessory that allows you to view GIF images while downloading, saving online time by canceling images you don't want. The CYBERGIF viewer (#24111) provides slide show capabilities for displaying a sequence of pictures.

For other graphics tasks, you may want one or more of the IMAGE series for capturing, animating, analyzing, editing, and printing greyscale and color images in PICT, TIFF, and MacPaint formats. Check out files #24221, #24222, #24116, and #24117.

Some of the most attractive GIFs in the Macintosh library—including the beautiful snow scene on this page—come from Joe Bergeron. Joe has also created a number of dramatic astronomical illustrations, such as BLACKHOLE (#21735), GAS GIANT (#22011), BACKLIT-SATURN (#24353), and BOREALIS (21738).

For clip art, try CATS (#24417), DOGS (#24448), BIRDS (#24421), TRAINS (#24411), CARS (#24410), BOATS (#24409), SPORTS (#24408), and AIRCRAFT (#24407). And there's no reason for After Dark users to limit themselves to the same old boring collection of screen saver modules. Download modules such as THE ORBS RETURN (#24387), ELECTRIC FIRE (#24364), FROST AND FIRE (#22111), and BAT SIGNAL (#23918).

StarShip Amiga Roundtable

■ BY JIM MEYER ■

Once upon a time, computer art consisted of ASCII characters pounded out on a teletype terminal. But we've come a long way since then. ASCII art gave way to monochrome images, and then to color. And it didn't stop there. Hardly a month goes by without a new paint program or graphics board appearing. How do you keep up?

Why not rub elbows with the people in the know? Sylvia Lutnes hosts our Graphics Conference every Sunday at 10 PM Eastern time. Guests include vendor representatives, noted artists and professionals, and folks who want to learn more about computer graphics.

One of Syl's regular guests is Bill Graham. Bill's 3-D renderings have been thrilling the Amiga crowd for some time now, and he's always happy to share his expertise. You'll find many fine examples of Bill's work by searching on the uploader address W.GRAHAM6.

Morphing is a hot graphics topic. This technique, popularized in the movie **Terminator II**, is available in a number of different commercial programs. You'll find support for two of them, ASDG's Morph Plus and GVP's CineMorph, in the *StarShip* Bulletin Board.

16 Million Colors

Amiga *StarShip* members had front-row seats for the roll-out of the new Amiga 4000, and the talk of Advanced Graphics Architecture, 24-bit graphics, and 68040 speed hasn't died out yet. So what's it like to be the first kid on the block with a new toy? BOOMER.T summed it up nicely when he said "Man, with the 040, it's scan, render, POOF. Almost instantaneous great pictures! I'm very impressed." Details in Category 15.

Bill Graham's fantasy tadpoles cavort in file #16803 TADPOLES.JPG.

24-bit graphics don't come without a price. File sizes are up, so JPEG compression is sure to become even more popular. If you don't have a program capable of handling JPEG, check the *StarShip* Library for files #13107 OCT_JPEG.LHA, a JPEG compressor/extractor, and #12789 JPEG2DCTV2.LZH, a JPEG-to-DCTV conversion program. Also available is #14372 VJPEG.LZH., a popular JPEG viewer that works on any Amiga.

Commodore Flagship Roundtable

■ BY JOHN W. BROWN ■

STARDATE:64128 THE COMMODORE Flagship warped out of standard orbit recently to deliver excellent news to Commodore users around the galaxy.

While bearing free gifts to the inhabitants during the month, the Flagship introduced a new telecommunication device. This device is available from page 625;3 of the planet Earth on the GEnie online service. The most recent filename and access number is listed in the Captain's Log on page 625;5.

This new device for Commodore-128 computers is called RTC Master 128 (RTCM). To make data exchange fun with other far flung Commo-dorites during Real-Time Conferences, the crew of the Flagship, headed by Chief Engineer CBM-ED and Counselor YLR.ROSE, developed the new interface program. Tested by a variety of species, RTCM was voted "Best New Program" by the Galactic Counsel.

They found it impossible to list all the features on the subspace carrier because of limited bandwidth, though these were voted best:

▲ Automatically send messages to anyone entering the conference with strings defined by the user. Can be sent private or public.

▲ Send text when entering a room for the first time. Shy species that like to hide in corners can turn these features off.

▲ The klaxon can be set to go off whenever someone enters or leaves.

▲ The clock can be set automatically whenever you enter an area and adjusted to your own time zone and planetary system.

▲ An alarm is present so you do not exhaust all your crystals.

▲ For Textologists that collect a variety of ASCII, a buffer is provided to capture the smallest to the largest of these elusive animals. This ranges from 60K to 2 MBs. A built-in transporter can transfer the ASCII and cage it to any sequential or program state needed. And other members of the galaxy can admire your collection without any additional tools!

▲ The capture buffer is built for the predators, too. You can hunt for twenty one occurances of an ASCII and glide silently back and forth in the buffer from each target found.

▲ Future expandability using overlay modules with programming information provided for other Chief Engineers.

▲ 100% Machine Language for true warp speed.

The Counsel is still trying to locate the source of mysterious sounds that vibrate from the speakers when Chief Engineer CBM-ED enters the conference area.

Atari ST RoundTable

■ BY D.A. BRUMLEVE ■

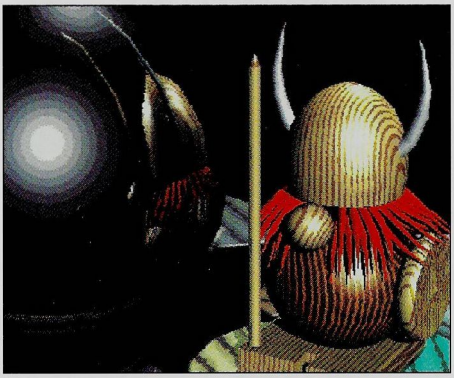
The Atari family of computers supports a variety of screen resolutions and color capabilities, so it's not surprising that six separate Libraries in the ST RoundTable are devoted to graphics. They offer a plethora of beautiful pictures to please your eye, tickle your fancy, adorn your screen, and illustrate your published page.

Conversion

While many of these pictures are in ST/TT-specific formats, you can view pictures created on other computers (including GIFs and JPEGs) with a viewer or conversion utility. Library 28 contains a number of such programs. Terry May has shared VIEWGIF2.LZH (#18327), a GIF file viewer/converter which works in all three ST resolutions. GVIEW11M.LZH (#24603) is a conversion utility that allows ST owners to enjoy GIFs, JPEGs, and others. Robert Glover has provided DMJ_GIF3.LZH (#21573), a fast, TT-compatible conversion utility for GIF files, and SPC_3375.LZH (#24890) which allows GIF files to be viewed in Spectrum color modes. GIFs can even be viewed on a monochrome monitor with MGIF37B.LZH (#21515). Look at some of the original art in Lexicor's Library, such as ERIKVIK1.LZH (#26122), a GIF worked in Phoenix 512 in TT Low by Joey Sherman.

Outline Art Design Contest

ISD/DMC recently sponsored a contest for users of Outline Art. The winning entries were published in Atari Explorer and are available in Library 30. Winners were Don Marusich, Rolf Berger, Joey Sherman, Jamie Todd, and Steve Kaleita. View their entries with Calamus (CAL_DEMO.ARC, #10521) or SL (CAL_S_SL.ARC, #20711).



Splendid, 3-D rendered wooden Viking in GIF file #26122 ERIKVIK1.LZH.

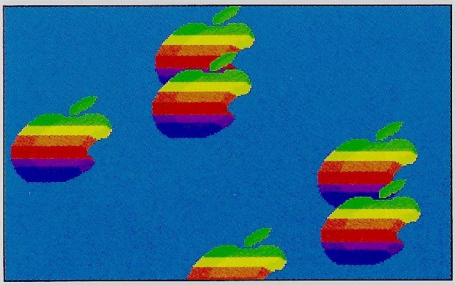
Darlah's Treat!

Sysop Darlah Potechin recently instituted a free download each month. The first offering was a demo version of Invision Elite, a monochrome paint program. An updated version of this program is found in INV_DEMO.LZH (#26131). Be sure to look for future treats!

Apple II RoundTable

■ BY DEAN ESMAY ■

Just learning how to download? Come by the Apple II RoundTable and check out our special help files—the GEnie Manual for Apple II Users, Option #6 on the A2 RoundTable at page 645. Unlike the standard GEnie manual, this Manual is short, simple, and written specifically with the Apple II in mind. You'll find exactly what you need to know, without trying to figure out what applies to you and what doesn't!



Screen from the popular Power 3D animation program, 19327 POWER.3D.BXY.

If you're interested in learning more, stop by one of our Real-Time Conferences! The A2 RoundTable holds conferences every night at 9:30 PM Eastern Time. A sysop is always available answer questions, and you'll get to meet other Apple II users like yourself.

Part of the Apple II experience on GEnie that too few people are aware of is A2Pro, the Apple II Programmers and Developers' RoundTable. This is a separate RoundTable devoted to the Apple II—specifically for those with an interest in programming. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, whether your interest is in BASIC or advanced environments like assembly language or Pascal, A2Pro has information for you. To reach it, choose Option #8 from the A2 RoundTable, or M 530 from any GEnie numbered page prompt.

The A2 University

One of the most exciting aspects of A2Pro is our A2 University. If you want to learn programming, or explore subjects like data compression, A2Pro's A2 University is for you. Classes are held in Category 22 of the A2Pro Bulletin Board, with Real-Time Conferences with A2U Professors each week and new lessons uploaded regularly to the Library! Read our article in this issue of LiveWire Online (type *LIVEWIRE), and stop by, today!

Computing RoundTables

Type Keyword or M### at any Numbered GEnie Page Prompt.

RoundTable	SysopMail	Keyword	Page
IBM PC	IBM$	IBMPC	615
Macintosh		MAC	605
StarShip	STARSHIP$	AMIGA	555
Apple II	A2.HELP	A2	645
Atari ST	INFO$	ST	475
Atari 8-Bit	AT$	ATARI8	665
Commodore	FLAGSHIP$	CBM	625

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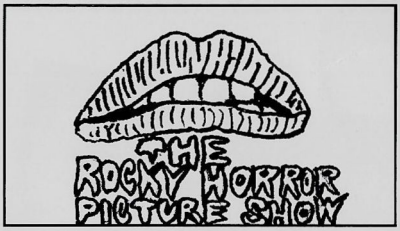

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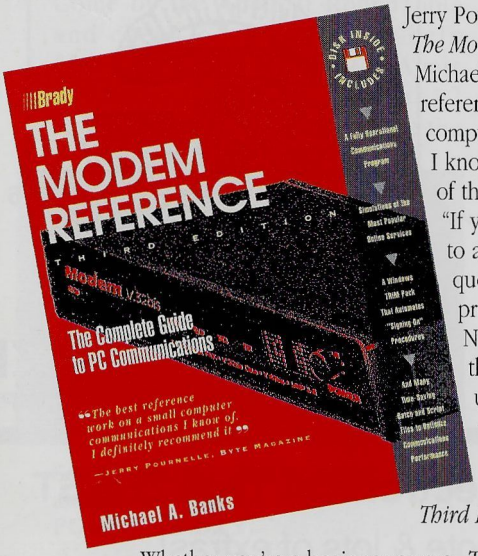

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